

NEWTONHILL, MUCHALLS and CAMMACHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The 349th meeting of Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council was held online, via Microsoft Teams, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th January 2022.

The meeting was limited to a maximum duration of one hour

PRESENT – Mr Morgan, Mrs Stephen, Mr Chew, Miss Daniels, Mr Flockhart, Mr Peaker, Mr Cruickshank, Mr Jones, Councillors Evison, Mollison and Pike.

Mr Morgan welcomed all and thanked Miss Daniels for chairing meetings in his absence.

1 – APOLOGIES – PC Camus and Mr Connolly. Mr Ewing had technical problems joining the meeting.

2 – MINUTE of MEETING 348 - Accepted

3 – POLICE REPORT – No Police in attendance. Written reports received for November and December for Kincardine and Mearns. November – slight decrease in anti-social behaviour calls with 41 incidents reported, increase in assault reports. December – another decrease in anti-social calls (21), 7 assault crimes, 10 thefts, 2 drink driving, one dangerous driving, 4 careless driving. Well done to Police and Coastguard for tracing and rescuing a gentleman who went missing from Newtonhill.

4 – MATTERS ARISING

- (1) Developer Obligations Fund and Newtonhill Tennis Courts – Tim Stephen, Live Life Aberdeenshire, has been invited to the February meeting. He will also be asked about library provision (8).

5 – POTHOLES—Work is due to start on pothole repair in Portlethen on 10th January 2022. Work should continue in Portlethen for the next two weeks then move to Newtonhill (weather permitting). Repairs to Old Mill Road are on course to be carried out this financial year. Anti-skid surfacing at TESCO due to be carried out in March.

At this point, item 10.5 was discussed. Work went reasonably well until problems arose on Saturday 15th January 2022 when a football match took place in Newtonhill Park. It would appear traffic “no waiting” signs were ignored. However, there may not have been enough in place in the first place. Additional signs will be put out on Friday and removed on Monday. Surely, they should remain in place for the duration of work. The football club will be contacted regarding parking problems. Queries were raised re length of time it takes for traffic lights to change at night when there is very little traffic. MR FLOCKHART is to contact Scottish Water with our concerns. It was felt that before major works are carried out there should be consultation with Aberdeenshire Council, Electricity Supplier, Community Council and any other relevant parties before any decisions are made.

6 – PLANNING

- (1) APP/2021/2571 Mobile phone mast at the Bettridge Centre - approved by Planning Department
- (2) Proposed Increase in Officer Delegated Powers – Aberdeenshire Council Delegation Report. This went before Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee on 18th January 2022. The Area Committee voted by 8 to 3 not to support the proposal and the status quo should remain. This will be fed back to Full Council.

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7 – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Scotland's Pavement Parking Prohibitions - Consultation on Pre-Implementation Directions and Regulations for Local Authorities (33 pages) closes 11th March

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/consultations/>

Local Development Planning Regulations and Guidance (261 pages) closes 31st March

<https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/local-development-planning/>

8 – LIBRARY PROVISION and BOOK BOX LIBRARY

Concerns have been raised regarding library provision in the area. Stonehaven browsing hours Tuesday 2-6, Wednesday 11-5, Thursday 10-4. Not very helpful for full time workers. There is a click and collect service. Portlethen browsing Tuesday 3.30 to 7pm with 2 days click and collect. At the moment Newtonhill Library is still closed – in need of extensive repairs. Is there any alternative location eg Bettridge Centre? Councils have a statutory duty to provide adequate library facilities in the area. Tim Stephen will also be asked about this at the February meeting.

A resident is interested in setting up a book box library in Newtonhill and is looking for a suitable place. The phone box library in Muchalls is working well esp since new shelves have been fitted.

9 – ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL NEW BIN STRATEGY

Aberdeenshire Council is proposing a change to bin collection to a three - weekly cycle – week one food waste plus non-recyclable waste (existing bin); week two – food waste plus paper and card (existing blue bin); week three – food waste plus containers, food and drinks cans, cartons, plastic bottles, pots, tubs, and trays (new 180lt bin). This is due to take place sometime this year. At some point there may be kerbside glass collections and garden waste uplift (a charge will be made for this). This is expected to be passed at the next Infrastructure Services meeting.

10 - CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Coastal Communities Fund – There is still no access to cliff paths at Muchalls. A representative from Aberdeenshire Council will visit the site again in February/March. Concerns have been raised the top path is not stabilising as well as had been hoped. Those interested in re-instating the path to the beach have been advised to form a constituted group and start fund raising. Public Liability Insurance would be needed. This would also apply to those interested in fixing the path to the beach in Newtonhill. Another query arising is for how long would those who fixed the paths need Public Liability Insurance?
- (2) Thanks from Portlethen Larder and the Haven Stonehaven for donations.
- (3) Developer Obligations Fund – Skateraw Hall may be considered for funding. The future of the Skateraw Hall has now been secured for Newtonhill.
- (4) Speeding on Newtonhill Road and the crossing at TESCO. Concerns have also been raised re traffic issues in Park Place. Hopefully Police will attend (Hi-Viz profile) and may also use a laser gun to monitor speeds.
- (5) Scottish Waterworks Newtonhill Road – Water main replacements are to be carried out in Newtonhill from 10th January 2022. Work could last up to 16 weeks. Work will be carried out in Newtonhill Road from Elsick Place to near the A92. Residents have been informed. School buses will start from Skateraw Road bus stop at 8.20am and then serve any stops not closed and any temporary ones. The same will apply in the afternoon with buses stopping at Skateraw Road. There may be some delays when the

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entrance from the A92 southbound is closed. There will be a temporary pedestrian crossing in place when the existing one is closed.

Latest update – St Crispin’s Road at junction with Newtonhill Road will close for 10 weeks from Monday 7th February 2022; prohibition of waiting from No 14 Newtonhill Road to No 11 Old Mill Road (both sides), Elswick Place from Newtonhill Road junction to No 3 Park Place from Newtonhill Road junction to No 11 (both sides) for a period of 30 days from Monday 10th January 2022.

- (6) NESTRANS 2040 – The New Regional Transport Strategy – <https://www.nestrans.org.uk/regional-transport-strategy/>
- (7) Aberdeenshire Council – Consultation – Review of Gambling Policy - 9th February 2022
- (8) Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Fund Awards – (1) Newtonhill Community Hall Association - £4518.66, (2) Friends of Newtonhill School - £2560.74, (3) NMCCC - £2209. Will need to keep an eye on when funds have to be spent.
- (9) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Area Events 2022 - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/events/platinum-jubilee/>
Thursday 2nd June 2022 – Lighting of Beacons; Sunday 5th June 2022 – the Big Jubilee Lunch; the Queen’s Green Canopy.
- (10) Survey – Free Bus Travel for Under 22s - <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/under22travelsurvey>
- (11) Vandalism to Cherry Trees planted at Mineral Well Park, Stonehaven. Mr Jones, who was involved in the planting of cherry trees to commemorate the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, reported 24 trees had been vandalised.
- (12) Community Council Forum Dates – Monday 7th February 2022, 7pm via TEAMS – Mr Flockhart and Mr Morgan to attend. Possible future dates Tuesday 24th May 2022, Wednesday 7th September 2022, Thursday 14th November 2022.
- (13) Message of thanks from Bill Howatson, Aberdeenshire Provost, for help and hard work following Storm Arwen.
- (14) Aberdeenshire Council Roads Policy Review – Consultation – <https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-policy>

11 – AOCB

- (1) Finance update – Community Council - £1160.27. Stones Project Grant - £2209. Phoenix Fund - £1922.43. Total in the bank - £5291.70
- (2) Donation of £200 to the Newsey. No donation made since March 2020.
- (3) Community Council will provide an article for the Newsey. Please forward any suggestions to Miss Daniels.
- (4) Drainage Works in Muchalls. Closure of Monduff Road at the junction of Pheppie Road and Stranathro Terrace starting Monday 24th January 2022 for 6 days
- (5) Mr Connolly to be asked for an update on Stone Features.
- (6) 2 bus stops have been closed off due to waterwork in Newtonhill. No advance notice was given to bus users. MR FLOCKHART is to write to Bruce Stewart, Area Manager, raising concerns. Also, mention access into Newtonhill when slip road is closed off. Does it have to be closed? Yes, as apparently drains now run under the road and not the pavement.
- (7) Hopefully the meeting on 16th February will be held in the Skateraw Hall but Tim Stephen has been asked what he prefers – virtual or in person.

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- (8) Councillor Evison commented on pressures on Social Care Services. Prioritisation will be given to the vulnerable and those in need of care. Other services may have to be stood down temporarily.
- (9) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – North Kincardine Rural Community Council is proposing to donate a tree to both Banchory Devenick and Lairhillock Schools. Should Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council do the same with Newtonhill Primary School?
- (10) Problems were caused to a Stagecoach bus when a van parked on the lane between Skateraw Road and Hillhead Road. Could 'no parking' sign be erected? A long process.
- (11) Fibre broadband roll out in Newtonhill and Portlethen. Should progress this year. There is now a Digital Team Leader for Aberdeenshire – Jack Rigby.
- (12) Phoenix Fund update – Funds should have been spent by the end of December 2021. A dispensation has been granted till 2022. Maps are now at the cartographer in Inverurie. Once drafts have been approved sign posting will be put in place. Information boards will be erected. A plea was made to have all documents to be proofread to avoid any mistakes. Remainder of funds should be spent by the end of May 2022.
- (13) Complaint made re football buses stopping at bus stops on A92 for comfort breaks. Also dumping of beer bottles, cans, etc. MR MORGAN to write to Police Scotland about this

Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 16th February. The location will be announced closer to the date of the meeting.